

From: doug@chmls06.mediaone.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 10:43am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs:

I have been a US computer professional for 30 years, with significant experience in the use of Microsoft operating systems and software, Apple systems and software, Sun systems and software, and Compaq OpenVMS systems and software. Over this long time, I have had plenty of opportunity to witness the transformation of Microsoft from a small technology company with a great business plan into an aggressively monopolistic superpower. While Microsoft management has demonstrated substantial arrogance and lack of self discipline during this transition to the "dark side", I don't really blame Microsoft so much as I blame our government for failing to take seriously its responsibilities for controlling (and where necessary, punishing) Microsoft's monopolistic practices.

World consumers are demonstrating increasing unwillingness to place their future in the hands of a few people in Redmond, Washington. Alternative operating systems exist, and we are already beginning to see other National Governments begin to advocate new approaches to computing, based on open and transparent operating systems such as Linux. This is not being done because of a desire of these governments to become involved in computer software development, but because of serious concerns over their own economic and political security, in the face of the power and the monopolistic business practices of Microsoft.

Vigorous action by the US Department of Justice is needed now to create a level playing field in the computer operating system and software development field. Probably the best solution would be a mandated break-up of Microsoft into 3 separate companies, one focusing on the development of a future (more open and transparent) version of the Windows operating system, one focused on business software (such as word processors and spreadsheets), and one focused on networking software (such as internet browsers and e-mail tools). Until such a separation is achieved, there will never be a real business motivation for Microsoft to become a willing player in the development of open standards for communication between different software tools (such as Java).

I feel that failure to take forceful action in the remedy phase of the current lawsuit could lead ultimately to a complete collapse of the US software industry and this could threaten the US lead in the whole broad area of technology.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Muir
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